

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated in the listing of claims below. In this listing, material to be added to currently amended claims is underlined and material to be deleted from currently amended claims is shown with strikethrough.

1. (Presently Canceled)

2. (Presently Canceled)

3. [The candle stand of claim 2,] A collapsible candle stand comprising:
first, second, and third vertically-oriented rods that together form a tripod structure, each of said first, second and third rods having an upper end and a lower end, wherein said first rod further comprises at least one hook provided thereon and a first washer rigidly attached at said upper end, and said second rod further comprises at least one hook provided thereon and a second washer rigidly attached at said upper end;
at least one horizontally-oriented ring, having a least one candle holder provided thereon; and
means for removably attaching said at least one ring to said first, second and third rods.

4. (Original) The candle stand of claim 3, wherein said third rod further comprises at least one hook provided thereon, a third washer rigidly attached at said upper end, and an attachment mechanism attached to said third washer.

5. (Original) The candle stand of claim 4, further comprising a handle.

6. (Original) The candle stand of claim 5, wherein said tripod structure is formed by attaching said first rod and said second rod to said third rod by inserting said attachment mechanism through said first washer and said second washer, and attaching said handle to said attachment mechanism.

7. (Original) The candle stand of claim 6, wherein said at least one ring further comprises at least one channel provided thereon.

8. (Original) The candle stand of claim 7, wherein said means for attaching said at least one ring to said at least one rod further comprises removably inserting said at least one hook into said at least one channel.

9. (Original) The candle stand of claim 8, wherein said channel is formed by a set of spaced projecting fingers attached to said at least one ring.

10. (Original) The candle stand of claim 9, wherein said handle further comprises a stem having a threaded bore.

11. (Original) The candle stand of claim 10, wherein said attachment mechanism further comprises a pivot bolt having a head and a threaded end.

12. (Original) The candle stand of claim 11, wherein said handle is attached to said pivot bolt by screwing said threaded bore onto said threaded end of said pivot bolt, thereby rigidifying said tripod structure.

13. (Original) A collapsible candle stand comprising:
a first vertically-oriented rod, having an upper end, a lower end, a first washer attached at said upper end, and at least one hook provided thereon;

a second vertically-oriented rod, having an upper end, a lower end, a second washer attached at said upper end, and at least one hook provided thereon;

a third vertically-oriented rod, having an upper end, a lower end, a third washer attached at said upper end, an attachment mechanism attached to said washer, and at least one hook provided thereon; and

at least one horizontally-oriented ring, having a least one candle holder provided thereon and attached by an arm, said at least one ring removably attached to said first, second and third rods.

14. (Original) The candle stand of claim 13, wherein said attachment mechanism further comprises a pivot bolt having a head and a threaded end.

15. (Original) The candle stand of claim 14, further comprising a handle having a stem with a threaded bore.

16. (Original) The candle stand of claim 15, wherein a tripod structure is formed by attaching said first rod and said second rod to said third rod by inserting said attachment mechanism though said first washer and said second washer, and attaching said handle to said attachment mechanism by screwing said threaded bore onto said threaded end of said pivot bolt.

17. (Original) The candle stand of claim 16, wherein said at least one horizontally-oriented ring further comprises a first set of spaced projecting fingers, a second set of spaced projecting fingers, and a third set of spaced projecting fingers, attached to said ring; and wherein said first, second, and third sets of projecting fingers respectively form first, second and third channels therebetween.

18. (Original) The candle stand of claim 17, wherein said at least one horizontally-oriented ring is attached to said first, second and third rods by inserting said at least one hook from said first rod into said first channel, inserting said at least one hook from said second rod into said second channel, and inserting said at least

one hook from said third rod into said third channel.

19. (Presently Canceled)

20. (Presently Canceled)

21. (New) A collapsible candle stand comprising:

at least three generally vertically-oriented rods, each having an upper end, a lower end, and being removably coupled together to form a substantially open generally conical space between said upper ends and said lower ends of said at least three rods; and

first and second horizontally-oriented rings, each ring having at least one candle holder provided thereon, said first ring being removably supported by said at least three rods at a first height and said second ring being removably supported by said at least three rods at a second height different from said first height.

22. (New) The candle stand of claim 21, further including a third horizontally-oriented ring, said third ring having at least one candle holder provided thereon, said third ring being removably supported by said rods at a third height different from said first and second heights.

23. (New) The candle stand of claim 21, wherein said at least three rods further include a first set of hooks for supporting said first ring at said first height and a second set of hooks for supporting said second ring at said second height.

24. (New) The candle stand of claim 23, further including a first washer rigidly attached at said upper end of said first rod, a second washer rigidly attached at said upper end of said second rod, a third washer rigidly attached at said upper end of said third rod, and an attachment mechanism attached to said third washer, wherein said tripod structure is formed by attaching said first rod and said second

rod to said third rod by inserting said attachment mechanism though said first washer and said second washer.

25. (New) A collapsible candle stand comprising:
at least three rods, each of which includes at least one hook provided thereon;
and

at least one ring supporting a plurality of candle holders circumferentially spaced apart from one another, wherein said at least three rods and said at least one ring are removably coupled together by said at least one hook supporting said at least one ring such that said at least three rods are generally vertically-oriented and said at least one ring is horizontally-oriented.

26. (New) The candle stand of claim 25, wherein said at least one ring comprises first and second rings, each of said rings supporting a plurality of candle holders circumferentially spaced apart from one another, wherein said at least three rods and said first and second rings are removably coupled together by supporting said first and second rings by said at least one hook such that said first and second rings are horizontally-oriented and said first ring is supported at a first height and said second ring is supported at a second height different from said first height.

27. (New) The candle stand of claim 26, wherein said at least three rods and said first and second rings are formed of metal.

28. (New) The candle stand of claim 25, wherein said at least one hook of each of said at least three rods further includes a first hook and a second hook, said at least one ring further includes first and second rings, and said first hooks support said first ring at a first height and said second hooks support said second ring at a second height different from said first height.